



Ceann Seirbhíse, Cúraim Príomhúil
 Cúram Sláinte Pobail Cabhán Dún na nGall
 Liatroim Muineachán, Sligeach
 An Clochar, Sráid an Choláiste, Béal Átha
 Seanaidh, Co Dhun na nGall, F94 TPX4

Head of Service, Primary Care
 Community Healthcare Cavan Donegal
 Leitrim Monaghan Sligo
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24th July, 2023

Deputy Pauline Tully TD
 Dáil Éireann,
 Leinster House,
 Kildare Street,
 Dublin 2.

Re: PQ ref 35206/23: To ask the Minister for Health to outline in tabular form the total number of people on the waiting list for ophthalmology in counties Cavan and Monaghan; the average waiting time for appointment; and if he will make a statement on the matter

Dear Deputy Tully,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health, for response.

I have examined the matter, and the following outlines the position for Community Healthcare Cavan Donegal Leitrim Monaghan Sligo.

At the end of June 2023 the following is a breakdown of the number of persons on the waiting list for ophthalmology in counties Cavan and Monaghan and the average waiting time for appointment:-

Number of children aged 0-4 years	Number of children and young people aged 5-17 years	Number of adults aged 18-64 years	Number of adults aged 65years+
109	410	204	513
Avg. waiting time	Avg. waiting time	Avg. waiting time	Avg. waiting time
88% are waiting less than 26 weeks.	47% are waiting less than 26 weeks.	2% are waiting less than 26 weeks.	7% are waiting less than 26 weeks.
7% are waiting 27 weeks+.	20% are waiting 27 weeks+.	20% are waiting 27 weeks+.	18% are waiting 27 weeks+.
5% are waiting longer than 52 weeks	33% are waiting longer than 52 weeks	78% are waiting longer than 52 weeks.	75% are waiting longer than 52 weeks.

Cavan Monaghan Community Ophthalmology Service is experiencing reduced clinical capacity due to the retirement of two Community Ophthalmic Physician posts (the latest in December 2022). A Consultant Medical Ophthalmologist is due to commence with the service shortly and additional clinical staff have been approved under a national waiting list initiative, this will positively impact the waiting list greatly.



There has also been a number of initiatives targeted at children aged 0-4 years and those of school going age. These have included the running of children clinics with clinical staff from other areas assisting at these and the transfer of children, aged 8 years and over, (based on the information on their referral) to the high street optician service.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Josephine Collins'. The script is cursive and elegant, with the first letters of each name being capitalized and prominent.

Josephine Collins (Acting Head of Service)

Ceannasaí Seirbhíse, Cúram Príomhúil

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